

HEALTH
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ROSS-ON-WYE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

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ROSS-ON-WYE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1954 in accordance with Article 17, sub-section 5 of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations 1935, and Circular 28/54 of the Ministry of Health.

Little progress was made in housing during the year and it was not possible to commence the construction of sewage disposal works.

With the ending of meat control, slaughtering was once more carried out after an interval of many years. The inspection of the carcasses, however, was carried out without any difficulty.

The Report contains a meteorological report for the year kindly supplied by Mr. F. J. Parsons, Meteorologist, The Observatory, Ross-on-Wye, which records the climatic conditions prevailing.

In preparation of this Report, I have to acknowledge assistance most willingly given by Mr. E. Moses, Clerk to the Council; Mr. R.H. Shaw-Batchford, Sanitary Inspector to the Council; Mr. A. Sharpe, Surveyor to the Council; and the Council's Housing Manager, Mr. N. Womack.

I also record my appreciation of the support given me in the discharge of my duties throughout the year by the Chairman and members of the Council.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,




Medical Officer of Health.

11th June, 1955.

Chepstow House,

Ross-on-Wye.



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ROSS-ON-WYE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

William Hogg, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., F.R.S.I.

CLERK TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Miss A.O. Gale.

Telephone:-

Chepstow House,

Ross-on-Wye 2214

Ross-on-Wye.

SANITARY INSPECTOR, SANITARY SURVEYOR AND HOUSING
DESIGNATED OFFICER

Mr. R.H. Shaw-Batchford, A.M. Inst.B.E.

Qualified Sanitary Inspector (Joint Board).

" Food Inspector (Royal Sanitary Institute).

" Building Surveyor (Inst. Municipal Engineers).

Telephone:-

Council Chambers,

Broad Street,

Ross-on-Wye 2373

Ross-on-Wye.

SECTION A - STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	...	1,004
Population (1951 Census)	...	5,394
Number of inhabited houses (on 31.12.54)	...	1,580
Rateable Value	...	£38,308
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	£148
Registrar General's Estimated Mid Year Population	...	5310

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year

Live Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated population (crude)	...	17.5
Corrected Live Birth Rate per 1000 estimated population	...	17.9
Still Birth Rate per 1000 total (live and still) Births	...	31.3
Death Rate per 1000 of estimated population (crude) ..		18.5
Corrected Death Rate per 1000 estimated population ...		14.9
Area Comparability Factor (Births)	...	1.02
Area Comparability Factor (Deaths)	...	0.81

Deaths from Maternal Causes

Heading No.30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Rate per 1000 total Births.</u>
		Nil	Nil

Death Rate of Infants Under One Year of Age

All Infants per 1000 live Births	...	75.3
Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live Births ..		66.6
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate live Births ...		333.3

The Urban District of Ross-on-Wye is a small country town, well known as a holiday centre for the lower Wye Valley. The town is recognised as an inland health resort suited for convalescence, especially during the winter months.

Catering for visitors forms an important source of employment. Industries located in the town include brewing, timber and joinery works, printing and some light engineering.

Population.

The Registrar General's Estimate of the mid-year population is 5310.

The census population in 1921 was 4701; 4735 at the census of 1931 and 5394 in 1951.

On the Registrar General's estimated mid-year population, the average number of persons per inhabited house is 3.34. The average number of persons per acre is 5.28 and the average number of dwellings per acre is 1.57.

The natural decrease of population for the year, that is the excess of deaths over live births is 5.

Births.

The total number of live births recorded as having occurred within the District during the year is 93 (46 male and 47 female) During the previous year 106 births were attributed to the area. The crude live birth rate per 1000 of the estimated population is 17.5 and using the comparability factor of 1.02 for the District, the corrected live birth rate is 17.9 per 1000 population, somewhat higher than the live birth rate for England and Wales - 15.2 per 1000 population.

The number of live births occurring out of wedlock is 3. Illegitimate births formed 3.2% of the total live births.

The adjusted legitimate live birth rate is 17.1 per 1000 estimated population and the ^{adjusted} illegitimate live birth rate is 0.57 per 1000 of the estimated population.

Still Births.

The number of stillbirths registered during the year is 3 (2 male and 1 female). All stillbirths occurred in wedlock and the stillbirth rate for the year is 31.3 per 1000 total births. Based on the estimated population, the crude stillbirth rate is 0.56 per 1000 population, the corrected rate being 0.58 per 1000 population. The stillbirth rate for England and Wales is 24.0 per 1000 total (live and still) births.

Deaths.

The actual number of deaths recorded as having occurred within the District during the year is 98, this figure being made up by 59 male deaths and 39 female deaths. For the year 1953 there were 102 deaths in the Urban District. The total number of deaths is obtained after deducting the deaths of non-residents and adding the deaths of residents who died outside the boundary of the Urban District.

The crude death rate from all causes is 18.5 per 1000 population and when adjusted for comparative purposes the corrected death rate is 14.9 per 1000 of the estimated population. The death rate from all causes for the year for England and Wales is 11.3 per 1000 population.

The ratio of male deaths to female deaths for the year is 1.51. The commonest cause of death is heart disease (headings 18, 19 and 20) which accounts for 29 male and 21 female deaths.

The corrected mortality rate for the year from all forms of heart disease is 7.6 per 1000 population.

Table of Causes of Death
According to Sex and Mortality Rates

List No.	Cause.	Male.	Female.	Persons.	Corrected D.R. per 1000 est. Population.
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory.	4	1	1	0.15
9.	Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases.	1	-	1	0.15
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach.	5	-	5	0.76
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus.	1	-	1	0.15
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.	1	4	5	0.76
16.	Diabetes.	1	-	1	0.15
17.	Vascular lesions of Nervous System.	2	3	5	0.76
18.	Coronary disease, angina.	9	7	16	2.44
19.	Hypertension with heart disease.	1	1	2	0.30
20.	Other Heart Diseases.	19	13	32	4.88
21.	Other Circulatory Disease.	-	1	1	0.15
23.	Pneumonia.	1	-	1	0.15
24.	Bronchitis.	1	-	1	0.15
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system.	3	-	3	0.46
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.	4	-	4	0.61
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.	-	1	1	0.15
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis.	2	1	3	0.46
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate.	2	-	2	0.30
31.	Congenital malformations.	1	-	1	0.15
32.	Other defined and ill defined diseases.	4	7	11	1.67
35.	Suicide.	1	-	1	0.15
	All Causes	59	39	98	14.90

Cancer Deaths.

The number of deaths caused by cancer of all sites is 11 (7 male and 4 female). The corrected death rate for all forms of cancer is 1.67 per 1000 population.

Deaths due to notifiable Infectious Disease.

Pneumonia caused one death and was the only acute notifiable disease which caused death during the year. The corrected death rate is 0.15 per 1000 population.

Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.

One death was attributed to these causes, giving a corrected death rate of 0.15 per 1000 population.

Tuberculosis.

One death was attributed to pulmonary tuberculosis. This gives a corrected death rate for all forms of tuberculosis of 0.15 per 1000 population. This rate for England and Wales is 0.179 per 1000 population for 1954.

Infant Mortality.

Seven deaths of children under one year of age were recorded; in the previous year the figure was 2. The infant mortality rate is 75.3 per 1000 live births. This rate for the year for England and Wales is 25.5 per 1000 related live births.

Puerperal and other Maternal Deaths.

I am pleased to record that no maternal deaths occurred within the Urban District. The death rate for 1954 from this cause for England and Wales is 0.69 per 1000 total live and still births.

SECTION B - GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Laboratory Facilities.

The Public Health Laboratory at the County Hospital, Hereford, continued to provide facilities for the usual clinical pathological investigations and the bacteriological examination of water, milk and other foods.

Chemical laboratory examinations are carried out by the Public Analysts, Ellis and Turner of Gloucester; and occasional specimens are sent to the Public Health Laboratory at Worcester.

The following table shows the number of the various specimens examined by the Public Health Laboratory, Hereford, on behalf of the Department:-

Urine	...	5
Swabs	...	12
Sputum	...	1
Faeces	...	1
Milk	...	25
Milk containers	...	29
Ice Cream	...	11
Water (bacteriological)	...	147
Food for organisms.	...	3

The number of samples of water examined by chemical methods was eleven. One sample of milk was sent to the Worcester Laboratory for biological test.

Ambulance Service.

Two ambulances with three employed drivers are provided at the St. John Ambulance Brigade Headquarters in Edde Cross Street, by the Herefordshire County Council. Members of the St. John Ambulance Brigade assist with this Service.

Public Mortuary.

The Council maintains a small public mortuary, with facilities for post mortem examinations, at the Depot in Greytree Road. During the year electric lighting and heating were installed and the drainage of the post mortem table was improved.

The number of bodies received from the Urban District during the year was 4, whilst 8 bodies were received from outside the District.

Disposal of the Dead.

Limited use continued to be made of the Council's Cemetery in Walford Road, as only 5 interments took place during the year. Since the Cemetery was opened in May 1945, the average number of interments has been 4 per annum.

Section 50 - National Assistance Act 1948.

One burial was carried out by the Council under this section of the Act.

Section 47 - National Assistance Act 1948.

One investigation was made under this section; the person concerned was an old lady living alone and was dying when visited but was receiving care and attention from neighbours.

Public Conveniences.

Public Conveniences are situated at Homs Road Coach Park, Cross House, the Crofts and Wilton Road. These were well maintained throughout the year under the management of the Council's Surveyor, Mr. A. Sharpe.

Hospitals.

There are two hospitals in the town under the control of the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board. The Ross Cottage Hospital has 16 beds. It has facilities for medical and surgical cases, an X-ray Department and an operating theatre.

The Alton Street Hospital provides accommodation for some chronic sick and also provides residential accommodation for mentally defective persons.

Clinics.

A minor ailments clinic for school children is held on Monday and Thursday mornings during school term, at Chepstow House.

Infant Welfare Clinics are held twice weekly on Monday and Thursday afternoons at Chepstow House.

Chepstow House also accommodates a dental clinic every Thursday and a speech therapy clinic on Mondays and Fridays, provided by the County Council.

The School ophthalmic clinic is held at Chepstow House when necessary.

SECTION C - SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Geology.

The whole of the area is situated on Old Red Sandstone rocks of the Devonian System.

Water.

I am indebted to Colonel Blake, Manager of the Ross Water Undertaking, for the following information respecting water supplies of the area.

The mains of the Ross Water Undertaking provide a supply of potable water throughout the District. This water is pumped from boreholes at Alton Court Works. In part of the District the Water Undertaking also provides river water supply, which is valuable for boiler and other industrial purposes on account of its low hardness content. The Alton Court supply is of good potable quality, and continuous automatic chlorination is applied to the rising main.

A satisfactory supply of water was given to the Urban District with the exception of the higher parts of Overross where during peak periods of draw-off the supply was intermittent. The amount of water available over the twentyfour hours of the day was sufficient for all purposes.

In 1953 the Council asked Consultant Engineers to report upon the water supply of the District, for purposes of ascertaining if the difficulties could be overcome. The Engineer's Report made certain recommendations and discussions are taking place between the Council and the Ross Water Undertaking.

During the year small extensions to water mains were carried out in Fernbank Road and Firs Road to remedy defects in supply. Two auxilliary plants were improved by installing two new engines. These plants run unattended during the night to prevent a fall in the water level in the reservoir.

The number of domestic supplies from the mains by services is 1536, and in addition 61 dwellings are supplied by 25 standpipes. The number of shops and offices supplied is 143.

The average daily consumption of potable watrt for 1954 for all purposes is 49.74 gallons per head of population. Non-domestic demand amounted to 15.96 gallons per head, giving a domestic consumption of 33.78 gallons per head per day.

Frequent water samples are taken by the Sanitary Inspector both before and after treatment. During the year 147 samples of water were sent to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examinations, 97 samples were of chlorinated water and only two showed a scanty growth. Of 51 samples of untreated water 4 were found to be sterile and 10 showed a scanty growth of organisms. Eleven samples of water were sent for chemical examination. On two occasions, inadequate chlorination was found and two complaints were received respecting alleged excess chlorination.

During the year, three fire hydrants of old pattern, were replaced by modern hydrants.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Public sewers extend throughout the area, and the number of premises not connected is insignificant. The public sewers function fairly satisfactorily except in lower Archenfield and Brookend areas, where flooding occurs during periods of heavy rainfall. The system is of the combined type taking both storm and foul water. The sewage is passed into the river Wye without treatment. The Council proposes to commence construction of the first stage of sewage disposal works during 1955. This will treat sewage from not more than one third of the town.

All newly constructed drains are inspected and tested by the Sanitary Inspector. During the year 22 new drains were constructed, of which 14 were in connection with dwelling houses, and 5 existing drains were reconstructed or repaired.

Rivers and Streams.

The river Wye forms part of the boundary of the Urban District. Two small streams pass through the area - Checkly Brook and Rudhall Brook. On one occasion, eleven small dead pigs were removed by the Council's workmen from the Checkly Brook and buried. For the prevention of nuisance the brooks were inspected on 150 occasions.

Closet Accommodation.

Water closets are provided throughout the District. A small number of the closets are not provided with flushing apparatus. The number of new water closets provided during the year was 19 and the need for conversions did not arise.

Public Cleansing.

The Council provides a weekly collection of domestic refuse, by means of a motor vehicle.

The collection is placed under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector and disposal is made by means of tipping at Deep Dean, Walford, in the adjoining Rural District. In addition to domestic refuse, the Council undertakes the collection of certain types of trade refuse on payment - collection from business premises being made twice weekly in winter and three times in each week during the summer.

The Council continued to supply, on hire purchase terms, approved sanitary dustbins. This scheme has resulted in the disappearance of unsuitable receptacles as dustbins. The Sanitary Inspector 100 inspections during the year in connection with ashbins.

The Council carries out regular cleansing of streets and public places. There are no public washhouses or baths in the town. Street cleansing is under the direction of the Council's Surveyor.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no swimming baths or pools open to the public within the area.

Shops and Offices.

The Sanitary Inspector made 83 shop inspections. New sanitary accommodation and new washing facilities were provided in one shop by informal action, and new washing facilities at another shop, as a result of inspection.

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948.

There were 61 factories with mechanical power and 9 without mechanical power registered with the Council at the end of the year.

In addition there were 10 workplaces to which Section 7 of the Act applied. The number of inspections made under powers granted by the act was 241. One defect was referred to the Department by H.M. Inspector of Factories and as a result of action the defect was remedied. One offence under the Act was referred to H.M. Inspector.

Factory Form 572 (Revised)

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the year 1954, for the Urban District of Ross-on-Wye, in the County of Hereford.

Part I of Act				
1. Inspections made for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).				
Premises.	Number on Register.	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority.	9	25	-	-
Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	61	131	-	-
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority. (except out-workers' premises).	10	85	-	-
Total	80	241	-	-

2. Cases in which defects were found.					
Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	By H.M. Inspector.	
Sanitary Conveniences Unsuitable or defective.	1	1	-	1	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork).	1	-	1	-	-
Total	2	1	1	1	-

Outworkers.

There are two outworkers registered with the Local Authority, one engaged in the making of wearing apparel, and another in the repair of umbrellas. These premises were inspected on four occasions and found to be satisfactory.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

I am indebted to Mr. R.H. Shaw-Batchford, Sanitary Inspector to the Council, for the following statement furnished under Article 27 (18) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935.

Inspections.

Accumulati ons	...	...	...	...	...	6
Ashbins and Ashpits	...	...	...	...	...	100
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	41
Burial Grounds	...	...	...	...	...	4
Camping Sites and Caravans	...	...	...	...	...	11
Common Lodging Houses	..	...	...	...	...	8
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	33
Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	138
Drain Tests	...	...	...	...	...	42
Filthy and Verminous Premises.	...	...	...	...	...	18
Factories (without mechanical power)	...	...	...	...	...	25
Factories (with mechanical power)	..	...	...	...	...	131
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	...	...	4
Food Handling Byelaws	..	...	...	...	...	55
Food Premises	...	...	...	...	...	170
Housing (Consolidated Regulations 1925)	..	...	...	...	...	8
Housing (Other)	...	...	...	...	...	360
Hotel and Restaurant Kitchens	...	...	...	...	...	24
Ice Cream (Registered Premises)	...	...	...	...	...	33
Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	...	24
Markets	...	...	...	...	...	66
Outworkers' Premises	...	...	...	...	...	4
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	8
Petroleum Stores	...	...	...	...	...	10
Schools.	...	...	...	...	...	2
Sewage Disposal	...	...	...	...	...	20
Shops	...	...	...	...	...	83
Smoke Observations	...	...	...	...	...	85
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	168
Stalls	...	...	...	...	...	50
Unsound Food	...	...	...	...	...	81
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	...	154
Watercourses	...	...	...	...	...	150
Work Places	...	...	...	...	...	85

Notices Issued.

Informal	...	...	...	...	...	102
Statutory re housing	...	...	...	...	...	2
Statutory under other Acts	...	...	...	...	...	18

Summary of Defects Remedied.

Ashbins provided	...	...	...	...	...	42
Accumulations removed	...	...	...	...	...	2
Drains and Gullies cleared	...	...	...	...	...	85
Drains repaired	...	...	...	...	...	2
Drains reconstructed	...	...	...	...	...	3
New Drains provided	...	...	...	...	...	7
Defective floors repaired	...	...	...	...	...	3
Defective roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	12

Summary of Defects Remedied (continued).

Defective eaves gutters repaired	21
Defective brickwork repaired	8
Disinfestations	7
Defective windows repaired	5
Defective chimneys repaired	8
Dampness of floors and walls remedied	5
Closets repaired	3
Baths provided	3
Dairies improved	1
Slaughterhouses improved	3
Filthy and Verminous Premises cleansed	3
Inspection chambers repaired	1
Old drains sealed	1
Paving repaired	1
Rainwater pipes provided or repaired	21
New sinks provided	4
Sanitary Fittings provided	3
Tents removed	1
Wells filled in	1
Waste of Water prevented	3
Water Supplies re-connected	6
New Taps provided	1
Flooding	13
Improper discharge into Sewers abated	3

Camping Sites.

Only one site within the Urban District was used for camping purposes during the year. No licences were granted by the Council under Section 269 of the Public Health Act 1936. It is estimated that the maximum number of campers in the area at any time did not exceed 20 persons. Two camping grounds exempt from this section of the Act, continued in use.

Common Lodging Houses.

There is one common lodging house in the town. The number of inspections made during the year was 8. Returns from the keeper show that the beds were occupied 2226 times during the year. No case of notifiable disease occurred in the common lodging house. The demand for this type of lodging house is less than in the early years of the century.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

One Council house was found to be infested with bed bugs and was disinfested with a contact insecticide. Before tenants move into Council houses their furniture is inspected by Mr. N. Womack, Housing Manager.

Other Infestations.

Seven other infestations were abated by the Sanitary Inspector during the year; these concerned ants, bats and wasps.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

The Council employs one rodent operator who works under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector, and additional help is provided when necessary. Altogether, 659 inspections were made under this Act during the year. The number of treatments carried out was 76.

	Premises Inspected.	Total Infestations.	Rats		No. of properties treated.	Statutory Notices.
			Major	Minor		
Local Authorities' Properties.	5	3	-	3	3	-
Dwelling Houses.	249	60	-	35	60	-
Agricultural Properties.	6	6	-	6	6	-
All other (including business) Premises.	16	7	-	5	7	-
Total	276	76	-	49	76	-

Petroleum (Consolidation) Act, 1928.

The number of licences granted by the Council for the storage of petroleum spirit was 21.

SECTION D - HOUSING

Unfortunately, no Council houses were completed, or under construction, during the year, and the number of applications for houses on the Council's list at the end of the year was 269. The number of temporary dwellings occupied on the Camp Meadow Estate on 31st December, 1954 was 34, and in addition 5 temporary dwellings at the Close, Three Crosses, were occupied throughout the year. Two of the dwellings on the Camp Meadow Estate were demolished during the year.

Whilst the number of temporary dwellings in occupation has slowly diminished, I feel that more rapid progress is very necessary. These buildings were erected many years ago, largely of short lived materials, and are no longer suitable for permanent occupation, particularly by families with children. These dwellings are cold in winter and hot in summer, and are very prone to dampness and condensation.

All the Council's housing estates are under the management of Mr. N. Womack, the Council's Housing Manager.

Private enterprise completed 12 new dwellings and a further 12 were under construction at the end of the year.

Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year.

1.	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).	...	142
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the above purpose.	...	381
2.	(a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head 1a above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932.	...	15
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the above purpose.	...	21
3.		Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	...	15
4.		Number of dwelling houses exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	...	127

Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notices.

		Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers.	...	101
--	--	--	-----	-----

Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.

1.		Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.		
	(a)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs.	...	Nil
	(b)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:		
		(i) By Owners.	...	Nil
		(ii) By Local Authority in default of Owners.	...	Nil
2.		Proceedings under Public Health Acts.		
	(a)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.	...	17
	(b)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:		
		(i) By Owners.	...	12
		(ii) By Local Authority in default of Owners.	...	Nil
3.		Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.		
	(a)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made.	...	Nil
	(b)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders.	...	Nil

4. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.
- | | | | |
|-----|--|-----|-----|
| (a) | Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made. | ... | Nil |
| (b) | Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit. | ... | Nil |

Housing Act 1936 - Part IV - Overcrowding.

- | | | | |
|-----|---|-----|-----|
| (a) | Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year. | ... | 4 |
| (b) | Number of families dwelling therein. | ... | 8 |
| (c) | Number of persons dwelling therein. | ... | 40 |
| (d) | Number of cases of overcrowding reported during the year. | ... | Nil |
| (e) | Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year. | ... | Nil |
| (f) | Number of persons concerned in (e) above. | ... | Nil |

Overcrowding.

Overcrowding within the Urban District is not a serious problem, as only four dwellings were known to be overcrowded at the beginning of the year. As no Council houses were erected it was not possible to secure any abatement during the year.

Proceedings under the Housing Act, 1949.

No action was taken under this Act during the year.

SECTION E - INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk.

Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949.

At the commencement of the year, there were 5 distributors registered with the Council and two were registered during the year. The number of dairies situated within the Urban District is three, and the number of dairy inspections made was 38.

There are no pasteurization plants in the District, but a certain amount of pasteurized milk is sold. Two supplementary licences were issued by the Council for the sale of pasteurized milk and four distributors were licensed for the sale of Tuberculin Tested Milk. During the year improvements were carried out at one dairy.

The number of samples of milk sent to the Public Health Laboratory was 25. Six samples of pasteurized milk complied with the Milk (Special Designation)(Pasteurized and Sterilised Milk) Regulations 1949, and 17 samples of Tuberculin Tested Milk complied with the standard required by the Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations 1949. One sample failed to comply with the standard.

In addition 29 churn washings were sent to the bacteriologist; 11 samples showed evidence of inadequate cleansing of the churns and 9 showed the presence of free hypochlorous acid. The remainder gave evidence of satisfactory cleansing.

During the year the cleansing of milk bottles was not always satisfactory, and I would like to see glass bottles replaced by non-returnable milk containers. I am informed that these containers can now be filled by machine.

There was no evidence at any time during the year, that the consumption of milk caused acute disease in the inhabitants of the area.

Ice Cream.

The number of premises registered with the Local Authority for the manufacture of ice cream was 1 and 26 premises were registered for the storage and sale of the product. Eleven samples of ice cream were submitted for bacteriological examination and the results showed that 10 samples complied with provisional grade 1 standard, whilst 1 sample was provisional grade 4. These results show an improvement in cleanliness on comparison with results in previous years. As the result of an indiffernet summer, there was a sharp decline in the amount of ice cream sold in the town.

The number of inspections of premises used for the manufacture, storage or sale was 33. There was no evidence that the consumption of ice cream caused acute infectious disease. During the year under review no ice cream was manufactured in the town.

Water Cress.

No special action was necessary by the Department in connection with the sale of this foodstuff. It is found growing in natural conditions in the vicinity of the town, and supplies from commercial beds are also sold in the town.

Shell Fish.

The sale of shell fish within the area is small. No action by the Department was necessary and no case of illness was attributed to consumption of this food. Small quantities of oysters from Colchester and cockles from Swansea form the greater part of this trade.

Meat.

In July meat was decontrolled and local slaughtering was resumed. Application was made to the Council by three meat traders for licence to use premises as slaughterhouses. In two instances the premises were former registered slaughterhouses and the remaining application related to a building converted for use as a slaughterhouse. All three applications were granted; the licences being subject to renewal annually. In 1939, there were six slaughterhouses in use in the town.

All animals slaughtered for food for human consumption are inspected after slaughter by the Sanitary Inspector, who is a qualified meat and foods inspector. Altogether, 1276 carcasses were inspected during the year.

Carcasses inspected and condemned

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed (if known).	113	-	22	998	143
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis.</u>					
Whole Carcasses condemned ...	-	-	-	1	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned. ..	9	-	-	4	7
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis. ..	7.9%	-	-	0.5%	6.3%
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned. ..	3	-	-	-	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis. ..	2.6%	-	-	-	0.69%

Other Foods - Section 14 Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

There are 20 establishments in the town concerned with processing, preservation or manufacture of food, all being registered by the Council under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act 1938. Eight of these process meat, including brawn and sausage manufacture, and ham boiling. There are 10 bakeries, a brewery which also makes soft drinks, and two fish frying establishments. The number of inspections of these food premises made during the year was 64.

Regular inspection of foods exposed for sale in the shops and markets is made by the Sanitary Inspector, and the following list gives the amount of food found to be unfit for human consumption and voluntarily surrendered:-

<u>Quantity.</u>	<u>Food.</u>	<u>Cause of unsoundness.</u>
6	Ox Livers.	Disease.
3	Ox Head and Tongues.	"
1	Ox Lungs.	"
2	Pig Carcase & Organs.	"
1	Pig Head.	"
2	Pig Lungs.	"
2	Intestines.	"
19 lbs.	Pork.	"
1	Sheep Carcase and Organs.	"
1	Sheep Head.	"
3	Sheep Livers.	"
20 lbs.	Mutton.	"
77 lbs.	Ham.	Decomposition.
54 lbs.	Sausages.	"
25 lbs.	Lard.	"
16 lbs.	Egg Pulp.	"
11 lbs.	Figs.	Larvae.
100 lbs.	Currants.	"
3 lbs.	Raisins.	"
3	6 lb. Tins Tongue.	Blown Tins.
1	6 lb. Tin Corned Beef.	" Tin.
4	5 kilo. Tins Peach Pulp.	" Tins.
75 tins	Sardines.	" "
254 tins	Miscellaneous Foodstuffs.	" "

Disposal of condemned meat is by combustion at the Gas Works, and where this is not possible the food is buried.

Byelaws as to Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food, and Sale of Food in Open Air.

These byelaws, made under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, came into operation on 13th November, 1950. Non-compliance with the byelaws was found on one occasion - the offence being failure to protect food from animals.

Food Poisoning.

Four notifications of suspected food poisoning were received during the year, but after careful investigation the diagnosis was not confirmed.

SECTION F - PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The year 1954 was one of relative freedom from acute infectious diseases, so far as the Urban District was concerned, as only 36 notifications were received. The few cases which did occur were almost confined to the first and fourth quarters of the year. On the estimated mid-year population, the acute infectious disease notification rate is 6.8 per 1000 population. The Urban District was free from diphtheria, poliomyelitis, enteric fever and meningococcal infection throughout the year.

Confirmed Cases of Infectious Disease
in each Quarter for 1954.

Disease.	1st Qtr.	2nd Qtr.	3rd Qtr.	4th Qtr.	Year.
Measles.	-	-	3	-	3
Scarlet Fever.	1	-	-	-	1
Whooping Cough.	12	1	2	15	30
Pneumonia.	1	-	-	-	1
Erysipelas.	1	-	-	-	1
All Diseases.	15	1	5	15	36

Whooping Cough. The most prevalent acute infectious disease was whooping cough; 30 cases occurred. All patients, except 2, were under 10 years of age; 21 were female and 9 male. The notification rate was 5.7 per 1000 estimated population.

The number of families affected were 20; five families each experienced two cases, there were 3 cases in one dwelling and 4 in another. There were no deaths caused by the disease.

A scheme for the immunisation of young babies against whooping cough is available at the Infant Welfare Centre.

Scarlet Fever. Only one case occurred during the year. The local incidence rate for the year is, therefore, 0.2 per 1000 of the estimated population.

Measles. I am glad to report that only 3 notifications were received respecting measles - all occurred during the third quarter of the year. This experience was not unexpected, as during the previous year the incidence was heavy and the disease tends to become prevalent in alternate years. The notification rate for the Urban District was 0.57 per 1000 estimated population.

Other Diseases. Only one notification of pneumonia was received and the number of deaths attributed to pneumonia during the year was one.

This does not mean that the fatality rate for pneumonia is 100% since the notification of the disease is, generally, not very good. The improved efficiency of modern therapeutic agents in this disease may be one reason for the failure to notify the less severe cases which occur.

One case of erysipelas was notified.

Notifiable Infectious Disease according to Age,
during 1954.

Disease.	0+	1+	3+	5+	10+	15+	25+	45+	65+
Measles.	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever.	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough.	4	5	5	14	1	-	1	-	-
Pneumonia.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Erysipelas.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
All Diseases	4	5	6	16	2	-	1	2	-

Tuberculosis.

At the beginning of the year there were 54 cases on the tuberculosis register, 41 of these being of respiratory disease. During the year 8 cases were added, 6 of these being in respect of respiratory disease. Of the additions, four cases of respiratory disease, and two cases of non-respiratory disease represented new infections.

The number of cases removed from the Register during the year was 5 (3 respiratory and 2 non-respiratory) so that the number of cases remaining on the Register at the end of the year was 57 (44 respiratory and 13 non-respiratory).

There was one female death caused by respiratory tuberculosis. The corrected death rate from tuberculosis for the year is 0.15 per 1000 population for the District.

The incidence rate of new infections of tuberculosis (all forms) in the Urban District for the year is 1.14 per 1000 population.

New Cases and Mortality during 1954.

Age Periods.	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5+	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
15+	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25+	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
35+	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-
45+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
All Ages	1	3	2	-	-	1	-	-

During 1954, two cases of respiratory tuberculosis in the Urban District were detected as a result of a visit to the town of the Miniature Mass Radiography Unit.

County Observatory,

Ross-on-Wye.

ANNUAL METEOROLOGICAL REPORT FOR 1954

A DULL YEAR with RAIN above Normal.

A COOL SUMMER and MILD AUTUMN.

The salient features of the weather in 1954 were the cool summer, - the coolest since 1922, and the duller on record - the excessive rainfall, especially in June and November, and the warmth of the last three months of the year, which was actually sufficient to counterbalance the deficiency in temperature of the remaining months of which March alone was warmer than normal. The mean temperature of the year was exactly normal - and the greatest deficiency in warmth occurred in July. The warmest month, August, was over two degrees under normal. On the other hand December temperature showed an excess of nearly $5\frac{1}{2}$ degrees, the largest for any month, whilst October had excess warmth of nearly 5 degrees.

The coldest weather was experienced in late January and early February. There was a considerable fall of snow on January 26th attaining nearly 6 inches in depth and lying unmelted until February 7th - a period of 12 days. Some low temperatures were recorded viz:- 14 degrees on February 4th and 15 degrees on January 28th and February 2nd, whilst on the ground (or snow surface) there were readings as low as 5 degrees F. on January 28th and 6 degrees on February 2nd - the lowest experienced since 1947. On January 25th, the coldest day of the year, the highest shade temperature was only 25 degrees.

Very little warm weather occurred during the Spring and Summer months. The first warm spell was in early May with several days having shade temperatures of 70 degrees and upwards, - reaching 76 degrees on the 12th. This reading was subsequently exceeded only on the first of September when 80 degrees were recorded.

The months of June and July one day each with a reading as high as 70 degrees. Indeed the temperature of 70 degrees in July is the lowest ever registered on the warmest day in July!

A few warm days were experienced towards the end of August (up to 74 degrees on the 31st), but the Summer as a whole was markedly cool and unsettled. Although rainfall in July was deficient, so too was sunshine by nearly 64 hours - the greatest deficit for any month. In fact it was the months with the longest days (May to August inclusive) that were in default in the matter of sunshine as each of the three Winter months showed an excess. May's sunshine was the lowest since 1932. The brightest month was April, followed by September. It was the sunniest April since 1938 and the duller July since 1944, whilst September was the brightest since 1940.

The year's sunshine was the least since 1946. Of the public holidays only Easter and Christmas were fine. Whitsuntide will be remembered for its thunderstorms and torrential rain. On June 5th a rainfall of 2.10 inches was measured (about one third occurring in a thunderstorm). This is the greatest amount ever recorded on a day in June since records began in 1859.

The month's rainfall made it the wettest June for 75 years - the total of 4.66 inches having been exceeded only in 1860 and 1879, but was equalled in 1863.

The wettest month, November, had a rainfall of 7 inches - which has only been exceeded in the Novembers of 1888, 1926, 1929 and 1951. In 1929 the total was 8.92 inches - the highest on record for any month.

By contrast April had only 0.20 inches, measured on three days. It was the driest April since 1938 and the month constituted a "partial drought" or period of at least 29 days with daily rainfall averaging only .01 inch.

There were no instances of "absolute drought" (15 rainless days or more in succession). Rain fell, however, on one day only between April 5th and May 1st and again once only between May 6th and 22nd. The longest rain-free spell in the summer lasted only eleven days (August 25th to 4th September inclusive).

Among other outstanding features was the high mean minimum temperature of 49.5 degrees in October (a new high record for that month. On the night of October 17th shade temperature did not fall below 60 degrees - a rare occurrence so late in the year. This was the warmest October since 1949.

December was the warmest since 1942, and on Boxing Day temperature rose to 56 degrees - a new record for that day, whilst the day's sunshine, $3\frac{3}{4}$ hours, was the highest in Britian.

There was only one air frost in December, whilst no air frost occurred between the 7th and 28th February - an unusual thing at that time of year. Also in March no air frost was experienced after the 4th!

The soil remained cool until the Autumn when the exceptionally mild weather checked the fall of temperature. At no time did temperature reach 60 degrees at a depth of four feet - a most unusual happening. By the end of the year soil temperature was well above normal both at one foot and four feet - after being deficient in every month from May to September (inclusive).

The usual Tables of Statistics are appended.

TABLE I

AIR TEMPERATURE (in shade) deg. Fahr.

Month	Mean	Departure from Normal	x	E X T R E M E S			
				Highest	Date	Lowest	Date
January	38.3	- 1.1		57	15	15	28
February	38.7	- 1.4		52	22	14	4
March	43.5	+ 0.6		60	11, 22	25	2
April	46.5	- 1.0		61	10, 11, 29	31	29
May	52.5	- 0.8		76	12	34	8
June	56.7	- 1.9		71	22	45	14, 20, 30
July	58.3	- 3.5		70	19	42	6, 7
August	58.8	- 2.1		74	31	43	27
September	56.1	- 0.6		80	1	36	23
October	54.5	+ 4.8		67	2, 3	27	26
November	45.7	+ 1.8		58	11	26	18
December	45.8	+ 5.4		57	2	27	11
Year	49.6	0.0		80	Sept. 1	14	Feb. 4

x Normals are for 70 years 1881 to 1950.

TABLE II

EARTH TEMPERATURE (deg. FAHR.)							
Month	IN THE GROUND				On the Grass Lowest Reading.	No. of Nights with ground frost. ϕ	
	M E A N S		At Four Feet.	Deviation from Normal. \times			
	At One Ft.	Deviation from Normal.					
January	40.5	+ 0.7	45.0	+ 2.3	5	28	19
February	39.6	- 0.3	42.8	- 0.2	6	2	13
March	42.7	+ 0.4	43.9	+ 0.5	14	2	10
April	48.0	+ 0.3	47.3	+ 0.6	22	28	17
May	52.7	- 0.8	50.5	- 0.4	27	8	3
June	58.5	- 1.7	55.0	- 0.8	37	19, 30	0
July	59.7	- 3.5	57.6	- 1.6	33	6	0
August	59.9	- 2.6	58.2	- 2.0	38	27	0
September	57.1	- 1.7	57.6	- 1.4	31	23	0
October	54.3	+ 2.2	55.2	+ 0.1	19	26	3
November	46.8	+ 1.4	51.1	+ 1.2	19	17	11
December	43.9	+ 2.6	47.2	+ 1.6	15	11	9
Year	50.3	- 0.3	50.9	- 0.1	5	28 Jan.	85

ϕ A ground frost occurs when temperature falls to 30 deg. F. or less.

\times NORMALS cover the 30 year period 1921 - 1950.

TABLE III

RAINFALL (In Inches)

24 hours to 9 a.m. (G.M.T.) daily

Month	Total Depth.	Deviation from Normal. \times	Highest daily fall.	Date.	No. of rain- ϕ days.	Duration of Rainfall. Hrs. & 10ths.
January	1.72	- 0.75	0.45	21	14	45.1
February	2.09	+ 0.02	0.52	17	18	56.6
March	2.72	+ 0.75	0.85	6	14	47.8
April	0.20	- 1.70	0.15	1	3	3.1
May	2.23	+ 0.10	0.61	1	16	37.0
June	4.66	+ 2.74	2.10	5	12	63.5
July	1.50	- 0.86	0.31	24	15	26.8
August	2.61	+ 0.11	0.52	7	15	35.6
September	1.66	- 0.72	0.32	10	19	23.4
October	3.07	+ 0.04	0.81	23	19	42.8
November	7.00	+ 4.31	1.05	26	19	104.2
December	2.01	- 0.75	0.46	6	11	33.4
Year	31.47	+ 3.29	2.10	June 5	175	519.3

\times NORMALS are for 90 year period 1861 - 1950

ϕ A Rain-day is one with at least .005 inch of rain.

TABLE IV

RELATIVE HUMIDITY (from Observations made 6 times daily
at 3 hour intervals from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.)

<u>Month</u>	<u>Mean Percentage</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Mean Percentage</u>
January	79	July	73
February	82	August	79
March	77	September	79
April	65	October	83
May	71	November	85
June	73	December	80

YEAR: 77 per cent.

TABLE V

BRIGHT SUNSHINE (In Hours and Tenths)

<u>Month.</u>	<u>Duration.</u>	<u>Deviation * from Normal.</u>	<u>Highest day's record.</u>	<u>date.</u>	<u>Number of sunless days.</u>
January	64.4	+ 12.0	6.6	7	8
February	70.1	+ 1.4	8.5	20	9
March	104.0	- 12.2	9.2	12	9
April	207.6	+ 57.1	13.4	27	0
May	135.4	- 50.0	12.4	11	0
June	146.7	- 54.6	14.4	23	3
July	116.7	- 63.9	10.2	7	3
August	137.8	- 34.4	12.6	31	2
September	164.2	+ 33.4	10.2	1	0
October	80.7	- 17.4	8.5	6	3
November	50.2	- 8.5	8.2	9	11
December	57.2	+ 6.6	6.9	3	10
Year	1335.0	-130.5	14.4	June 23	58

* Normals cover the 35 year period 1916 - 1950

Again it has to be noted that there was a marked absence of large daily records, the nearest approach to 90 per cent of sun's time above the horizon being the records on April 27th and November 9th.

It was the dullest year since 1946.

TABLE VI

BAROMETRIC PRESSURE (in inches of mercury)

N.B. Barometer Cistern 226 feet above Mean Sea Level.
 All values given below have been corrected for
 Mean Sea-Level and temperature 32 deg. FAHR.

<u>Month.</u>	<u>Mean Pressure.</u>	<u>Deviation \mp from normal.</u>	<u>E X T R</u>		<u>E M E S</u>		<u>PREVAILING WIND</u>	
			<u>Highest Date</u>	<u>Lowest Date</u>	<u>ion.</u>	<u>age.</u>	<u>Direct-</u>	<u>Percent-</u>
Jan.	30.146	+ 0.192	30.662 1,2	29.265 13	W	21		
Feb.	29.828	- 0.142	30.556 3	29.170 26	SW	24		
Mar.	29.744	- 0.259	30.206 16	28.695 3	SW	19		
Apr.	30.271	+ 0.317	30.646 16	29.548 1	NE	19		
May	29.990	+ 0.002	30.372 19	29.037 2	N	17		
June	29.947	- 0.085	30.310 30	29.190 9	SW	33		
July	29.893	- 0.083	30.248 19	29.246 17	SW	34		
Aug.	29.850	- 0.131	30.296 28	29.276 9	SW	31		
Sept.	29.866	- 0.146	30.266 29	29.417 24	W	39		
Oct.	29.899	- 0.069	30.428 7	28.970 24	SW	55		
Nov.	29.796	- 0.119	30.620 15	28.488 26	SW	30		
Dec.	29.901	- 0.064	30.530 3	28.274 8	SW	40		
Year	29.928	- 0.052	Jan. 30.662 1 & 2	Dec. 28.274 8	SW	22		

\mp Normals are for 30 years 1921 to 1950.

F. J. Parsons

METEOROLOGICAL OFFICER

